GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
PAK STAND ON NUCLEAR OPTIONS AGAINST INDIA
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent statement of Pakistan President regarding Pak`s nuclear options to be exercised against India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether in view of the open admission by Pak in favour of exercising the nuclear options against India, the Governmenthave considered the question of reviewing their policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) - (d) According to media reports, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf,addressing an Air Force gathering in Karachi, said `I personally conveyed messages to [Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee] through every international leader who came to Pakistan, that if Indian troops moved a single step across the international border or line of control, they should not expect a conventional war from Pakistan`.

The spokesman of the Pakistan President, subsequently maintained that the reference to `unconventional war` was not meant to convey nuclear war.

Government constantly reviews all developments that have a bearing on India`s security environment and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard nation`s security.